

## SECTION 7

### COMMAND AND SUPPORT OF STATE MOBILIZATION RESOURCES

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#### **NIIMS INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM**

All incidents for which state fire resources mobilization is requested and authorized must be managed and operated using the NIIMS (National Interagency Incident Management System) Incident Command System.

#### **7.1 Command and Control Objective**

Establish responsibility for overall command and control of state mobilization resources.

#### **7.2 Authority**

“It is the responsibility of the Adjutant General to mobilize jurisdictions under the Washington state fire services mobilization plan. The Director of Fire Protection shall serve as the state fire resources coordinator when the Washington state fire services mobilization plan is mobilized.” RCW 38.54.030.

Under the authority, and to effect the implementation of this statute, the State Fire Marshal shall assign a Mobilization Incident Commander (MIC) to each state mobilization incident. The MIC shall be either the Incident Commander of a Washington Integrated Incident Management Team or other qualified Incident Commander designated by the State Fire Marshal.

#### **7.3 Mobilization Incident Command**

A state mobilization incident may be under the command of a:

- Mobilization Incident Commander (MIC)

or

- Unified command, i.e., MIC with local Incident Commander(s)

The MIC does not automatically become the Incident Commander, but may assume that role under the direction and authority of a Delegation of Authority.

#### **Delegation of Authority**

A Delegation of Authority from the local jurisdiction(s) to the Mobilization Overhead Team is required.

A Delegation of Authority is a written transfer of authority vesting the MIC with the control and management of the incident in accordance with terms and conditions established by the delegating agency administrator or unified agency administrator group. A Delegation of Authority defines the scope of authority granted to the MIC and the relationship with the local IC or local/region Incident Management Team and may specify a unified command.

By statutory provision:

“Upon implementation of state fire mobilization, the host district resources shall become state fire mobilization resources consistent with the fire mobilization plan.” RCW 38.54.020(4).

The MIC will work in cooperation with the authorities of the local jurisdiction(s) to ensure that local policy, as established by the local agency administrator(s), and priorities for control are complied with insofar as possible. See Appendix E.2 for a model Delegation of Authority.

The MIC will ensure that a copy of the signed Delegation of Authority is faxed to the State EOC, (253) 512-7203, upon its execution.

#### **7.4 Roles and Responsibilities of the Mobilization Incident Commander**

The paramount responsibility of the MIC is to ensure that state mobilization resources are matched to incident requirements (i.e., that state mobilization resources are deployed and utilized in keeping with their training, experience and abilities) under the direction of qualified command, thereby ensuring effective and safe operations.

The MIC has the authority to assign, reassign, and demobilize resources in keeping with this mandate.

In support of these responsibilities, the MIC:

- Fills the Mobilization Overhead Team, as deemed necessary.
- Joins unified incident/area command as the Incident Commander for all state mobilization resources.
- May assume overall incident command responsibility and authority under a Delegation of Authority, in which event the MIC:
  - Works in cooperation with the authorities of the local jurisdiction(s) to assure that local fire policy, as established by the local agency administrator(s), and priorities for control are complied with insofar as possible.
  - Establishes incident/area priorities and objectives.
  - Determines strategies.
- Provides coordination and communication between local jurisdiction(s) and the incident.
- Ensures that state mobilization resources are matched to incident requirements.
- Orders, assigns and reassigns, and demobilizes state mobilization resources as necessary to support incident objectives.
- Procures logistical support as required to sustain state mobilization resources.
- Coordinates and supports the Area Command Authority if established. In the event that an Area Command is established, another MIC must be assigned to take that position within Area Command.
- Provides incident information to the State EOC and the State Fire Marshal through established communications channels.
- Collaborates with the State Fire Resource Coordinator on critical issues concerning fire resources.
- Interfaces with multi-agency command at the incident.
- Directs the Planning Section to provide the demobilization lists to the designated dispatch center (which in turn will send it to DNR in Olympia) prior to the Incident Management Team's departure from the incident.
- Provides input for the after-action report to the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division.

- Ensures that the origin and cause of the fire is determined, and if found to be other than a natural cause, ensures that the cause of the fire is fully investigated and reported.

### **7.5 Mobilization Overhead Team**

Once assigned, and after a briefing (incident status and potential, resource status and requirements, incident management) from the on-scene Incident Commander, the MIC shall activate a Mobilization Overhead Team as deemed necessary by the MIC.

The Mobilization Overhead Team shall serve as the Incident Management Team for the state mobilization resources under the authority and direction of a Delegation of Authority from the host jurisdiction(s).

The Mobilization Overhead Team may be either a:

- Short Team, comprised of positions designated by the MIC

or

- Full Team, comprised of all positions of a Washington Integrated Incident Management Team

Additional Incident Management Team positions may be filled if, in the judgment of the MIC, the incident requires them.

### **Training Assignments**

In recognition of the requirement for training and the need to qualify additional personnel for future Incident Management Team assignments (as alternates, additions, or replacements), personnel may be mobilized in Incident Management Team position training assignments. Trainees shall be assigned from an established list of qualified personnel.

### **7.6 Air Operations Procedures**

Air operations (attack, observation, and support) at all state mobilization incidents shall conform to the rules and procedures for air operations as adopted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

### **7.7 Logistical Support**

The Mobilization Incident Commander has the authority to procure the logistical support required to sustain the resources mobilized under state mobilization.

### **7.8 Contracts**

For the efficient and expeditious acquisition of required resources of any kind, the MIC or Finance Section Chief may authorize direct vendor emergency contracts. This process minimizes the potential for error or delay in obtaining critical resources or paying costs.

This provision shall not be used to circumvent the prescribed, usual resource acquisition process.